SPEAKERS

Monday - 24/03

Ľubica Vitková _ Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, STU

Ľubica Vitková is the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. She has been working as a lecturer here at the Institute of Urban Design and Planning for two decades. Her main research areas are urbanism and urban economics with an emphasis on the urban structure of cities. She attended and led different international and national workshops, conferences, seminars and summer schools. Since 2002 she has been an authorized architect of the Slovak Chamber of Architects.

Ingrid Konrad _ Chief Architect, Bratislava

Ingrid Konrad studied architecture in Bratislava and in Vienna where she has been living since 1986. In 1990 - 2005 she taught courses on architecture and open spaces at the Faculty of Architecture. She is a member of the Chamber of Architects in Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland, she has her own architecture agency in Vienna and in Lower Austria; she also ran a studio in Bratislava in 2006 - 2011. Besides dozens of projects and project implementations in the area of housing, commercial and industrial architecture, she focuses on urbanism, city development, and land architecture. In addition to numerous publications, she has filmed the documentary titled "Brány do mesta / Tore in die Stadt" (Gates to the City) dealing with suburban districts of Bratislava and Vienna, as well as the urban space in between.

Zora Pauliniová _ PDCS and Square for People

Originally an architect, Zora works as a trainer, consultant, and facilitator for PDCS. Her longterm focus is on civil participation and participatory processes in the strategic planning (PHSR) and concepts from the local to the national level, as well as in public space planning. She is the author and co-author of several publications, an occasional blogger (pauliniova.blog.sme.sk) and an active member of Cyklokoalícia (Cycling Coalition) and Námestie pre ľudí initiative (Square for people). She likes creating space for sharing inspiration between activists, civil initiatives, experts, municipalities, public administration, and the business sector.

Slávka Ferenčuhová _ Department of Sociology, Masaryk University, Brno

Slavomíra Ferenčuhová is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology at the Faculty of Social Studies of the Masaryk University in Brno. She teaches courses on urban studies. In 2011, she published the book "A Name, a Town, and a Thing" dealing with planning in urban sociology and the case of (post-) socialist Brno, which compares socialist and post-socialist urban planning and analyses its changes and continuity from the 1950s to 2007 on the case study of the city of Brno. Currently, she is cooperating on the project Collective memory and the transformation of urban space. She has recently completed her post-doctoral project Sociology of the city of 20th and 21st century.

Martin Petřík a Vojtěch Němec _ Žijeme tady, Prague

They founded Žijeme tady (We live here) during their high school years as students interested in architecture. Their main goal is to improve public space with the help of local inhabitants. The pilot project of their activist group is "Kola narůžovo" (Pink Bikes) - community bikesharing with minimal expenses. Another recent project is also connected to the colour pink as they plan to repair and paint old wheelchairs pink in order to provide them to train stations, so that people in need can borrow and use them. In January, they opened a community sauna. Moreover, they are planning to launch a project of community bookshelves in the future. As they say, they do it because they enjoy it.

Júlia Oravecz _ Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre, Budapest

Design manager. Julia studied History of Art at ELTE Science University (Budapest) and completed her MA Studies at Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design (Budapest). In her master thesis she examined European interim property use agencies and the adaptability of the practices in the Hungarian cultural context. She has been working on different projects in Budapest and Berlin with a common focus on socially and ecologically sustainable living in the cities through the democratization of design.

Judit Schanz _ Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre, Budapest

Urban sociologist. Judit has been a member of KÉK - Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre since 2011 and a project manager of KÉK's Lakatlan programme focusing on the innovative reuse of vacant properties since 2013. In the previous 10 years she worked in Budapest's 8th District on local urban rehabilitation programmes, including the Kesztyűgyár (Glove factory) Community House and its social integration programmes. She studied Urban sociology at ELTE Univerity's Faculty of Social Sciences (Budapest).

Aleksander Krajewski _ Napraw sobie miasto, Katovice

Aleksander is an architect and the founder and chairman of the board of the "Fix the city up Foundation" (Napraw Sobie Miasto). Since 2010 he has been organizing happenings and events proving that public space belongs to people, not the government, parties nor officials. He believes that public space belongs to public, which therefore has to look after it, clean it up and decide about it. With the help of his friends he has launched educational projects for children, public discussions and conferences about the problems of the capitol city, workshops for the citizens, which have led to changes in the city legislation and in the city streets.

Mária Bulková _ Slovak Governance Institute

Mária graduated in journalism from the Faculty of Arts at the Comenius University in Bratislava and in public policy from the Central European University in Budapest. Since 2010 she has been working in the Slovak Governance Institute. She has been cooperating on the project Odkazprestarostu.sk (Message to the Mayor), where she is responsible for communication and building new communities. Her main research area is information policy of public institutions. She coordinates the project City for citizens, citizens for city, which is aimed for networking municipalities, profit and non-profit sector and public and finding best practices for their cooperation.

Elvan Dajko _ Polis University, Tirana

Elvan is an architect who graduated from the Sapienza University of Rome - Faculty of Architecture. His research areas cover mainly urban morphology and architecture, and housing in Albania in general. He examined these issues in his thesis and further developed them during the Postgraduate Program at ETH Zurich. Currently, he continues to develop this topic in his doctoral studies in Architecture and Construction - Space and Society at the Faculty of Architecture of the Sapienza University of Rome. Before becoming a part of POLIS team, in September 2010, he worked for ATENASTUDIO - Rome, afterwards he was involved in other collaborations with several studios in Italy, Switzerland and Albania. His professional activities include participation in numerous researches, project designs, workshops, and lectures with international and Albanian lecturers, and also organizational tasks at administrative level at POLIS University.

Aida Ciro _ Co-PLAN, Tirana

Aida is a professional in the field of strategic communication, coordination and research with 7 years of varied experience and several published works. Her expertise includes planning and designing of organizational strategic communication plans for both internal and external communications and outreach; institutional coordination; processing data to translate/package it into impactful data/stories depending on the target groups; facilitation of knowledge building and sharing using online and offline tools; community participatory processes; designation of multimedia products, including print, and online media; networking; facilitation/moderation of trainings, workshops, round-tables, and conferences; project acquisition including concept development, elaboration, activity planning, and full length project proposal writing; research on various topics, particularly in the field of communication and good governance.

Monica Munteanu _ The municipality of Vulcan

Monica graduated from the University of Petrosani, Romania with a major in Finance and Insurance; World English Institute (WEI)- advanced level courses- Correspondence courses 2005-2007 USA; In 2011 at the University from Petroşani- Project Manager Degree. Since 2001 she has been working for the Municipality of Vulcan. She implemented projects on: Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013, INTERREG IV C, Youth in Action Programme 2007-2013, PHARE, ISPA, World Bank Programme.

Felicia Gabriela Portase _ The Municipality of Vulcan

Felicia works as a Personal Communications Advisor for the mayor of the Vulcan Municipality (www.e-vulcan.ro) and editor-in-chief of the network media platform VOXMONTIS (www.voxmontis.tv). Felicia has worked in various media projects and formats over the last 19 years, e.g. as a TV producer for AP Production (mainly for the local authority), editor-in-chief for Altitudini Magazine (www.avj.ro) and Sperante Magazine, news correspondent for national tv stations Antena 1 and Prima TV, as well as a volunteer in various initiatives. She is working in the civil society sector and she is actively involved in creating bridges between local public authorities and citizens, NGO's and local authorities.

Dominika Belanská _ Parkotvor, Prievidza

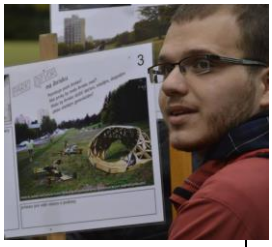
Dominika is an architect, journalist, and art educator. Since completing her master studies in architecture, design and arts with a thesis on participatory approach in architecture, she has been involved in the fields of architecture, urbanism, strategic and participatory city planning, public space revitalisation and intermediating these disciplines to public via workshops, lectures, publishing, and curating.
She works as an editor of an architectural magazine in the Slovak Architects Society, an external art educator in the Slovak National Gallery, and a consultant for sustainable development of public buildings for the City district Bratislava – Nové Mesto. Recently, Dominika has been focused on reprogramming the approach to the development and use of public spaces in her home country.

Liliana Mocrei _ The Municipality of Siret

Liliana is a teacher who encourages her students to get involved in volunteer work because she believes it increases their sense of responsibility to the school and the community as a whole. She truly believes that people who volunteer in their youth become better citizens. Her experience has taught her that volunteering impacts the lives of students, families and community members. She was involved in the project City for citizens, citizens for city on behalf of the municipality of Siret, Romania.

Tuesday, 25/03

Jakub Kmeť _ Slovak Governance Institute



Jakub graduated in political science from the Masaryk University in Brno. His research areas are municipal politics and coalition governance. He is a co-author of the publication Koaliční vládnutí ve střední Evropě (1990-2010). He participated in Masarykovy Debates, which is a project that seeks to revive civil society in Czech Republic. Jakub also participates in Parkotvor, local project in Prievidza, where he and his friends try to put new strength into city's park. He has been working in SGI since April 2012, particularly in the projects 0dkazprestarostu.sk and Samospráva sa neriadi sama (The municipality does not govern itself).

Ctibor Košťál _ Slovak Governance Institute

Ctibor has been working for SGI since 2007 with main activities focusing on issues of integrity and transparency, local government, social inclusion and modernization of civil service. He graduated from Comenius University in Bratislava in 2001 with the degree in Psychology and with degree in Political Science in 2008. In 2012 he graduated from a two-year Executive Master of Public Management Program at Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, Germany. As Director he is responsible for strategic and HR management, fundraising and financial management of SGI. He co-founded the portal 0dkazprestarostu.sk. Currently he is responsible for its strategic management and communication with municipalities.

Jana Gmitterová _ The municipality of Trnava

Jana graduated in mass-media communication at the University of SS. Cyril and Methodus in Trnava. She gained her first professional experience during her studies as internal communication specialist in PSA Peugeot Citroën Slovakia. Since 2012, she has been working for the municipality of Trnava at the communication and marketing section. She communicates with journalists about the municipal issues, publishes press releases and solves citizens' complaints in cooperation with the municipality office - including those from the web portal 0dkazprestarostu.sk.

Peter Bročka _ Lepšia Trnava (Better Trnava)

Peter is a law graduate, founder of the civic association Lepšia Trnava (Better Trnava), volunteer and administrator of the web portal 0dkazprestarostu.sk in Trnava. He likes connecting people who care about where and how they live, pointing out flaws in the functioning of municipality and creating space for discussion about making the city a better place to live. Peter strongly believes in the phenomenon of volunteering. His own experience in volunteering has shown him that the effort to improve his surroundings is worth it.

Natália Blahová _ Pontis Foundation and Department of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

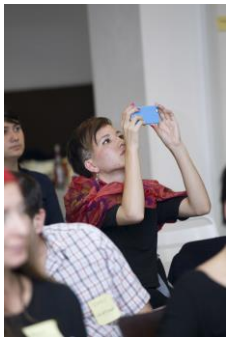
Natália is doing her PhD at the Department of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences where she participates in the project "Civil activities as a determinant of sustainable development of the city (ethnological perspective)". Since 2012, she has been working for Pontis Foundation being responsible for the administration of the business volunteering event "Our City". Its aim is to encourage meaningful cooperation between public administration, municipality, private sector, non-profit sector, and public through volunteering activities. This year it will be held for the 8th year in several Slovak cities.

Wednesday, 26/03

Jarmila Johnová _ Prague Mothers and Chodcisobe.cz

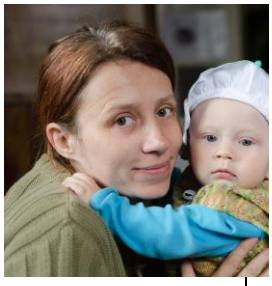
Jarmila graduated in National Planning from the School of Economics in Prague. Before 1989 she worked with the state institution designed for architectonic and environmental issues, after signing the Charta 77 (a proclamation for human rights and freedoms) she stayed at home and brought up three children, helped with issuing samizdat periodicals (Lidové noviny, Infoch, Ekobulletin, revue Střední Evropa - Central Europe etc.), occasionally translated from English for samizdat. After 1989, she has been working as a project manager (e.g. Safe Routes to Schools, Pedestrians United) and chairwoman for NGO Prague Mothers focused on road safety, sustainable transport and other environmental issues. As a freelance journalist she has published commentaries, photographs, has led and has given interviews on political, social and environmental issues to various media (newspapers, magazines, radios): Lidové noviny, MfDnes, Respekt, the Radio Free Europe, etc.

Marietta Le _ Jarokelo.hu



Marietta has been leading the team running the Hungarian implementation of the Slovak citizen participation website Odkazprestarostu.sk since 2012. The Hungarian version called Jarokelo.hu has more than 800 solved cases of complaints about problems in public spaces in Budapest. In addition to coordinating Jarokelo.hu's activities, Marietta works at Kreater Social Innovation Agency as a social innovation consultant and writes and translates for the Atlatszo.hu. anti-corruption news site.

Hana Chalupská _ Nesehnutí



Geographer and humanitarian enviromentalist with experience both in government and in the non-profit sector, where she is currently working for several organisations. She enjoys involving the public in decision-making and public space planning. She has started with consulting in ecology and sustainability. When pregnant, she became a part of a group of mothers who were not content with the quality of air in Brno and they have founded the DejchejBrno (BreathBrno) campaign. The aim of the campaign is to promote measures to improve air quality in Brno and make them a part of the programs of political parties running in the municipal elections in October 2014. So far, they have blocked a traffic artery in Brno by children's strollers and thanks to them the local radio broadcasts on air quality in the morning news.

Matúš Čupka _ Zelená hliadka - Green Watch

Matúš started as an intern for Slovak Governance Institute in 2008. He advocated better conditions for urban cycling in the Cyklokoalícia association and worked for the Strom života organisation (The Tree of Life). In April 2011, together with his brother he set up a volunteer initiative called Zelená hliadka (Green Watch) that helps to clean the trash in the streets of Bratislava or to point out and dispose illegal dumpsites. They have also tackled the issues of visual smog or barriers in public space. After 2,5 years, Zelená hliadka has become a group of volunteers able to achieve visible goals with their work and significantly improve the life in Bratislava. This year, they have intensified their effort in investigative activities in order to improve the effectiveness of municipalities in the areas of their focus. In his blogs, he referes to ineffectiveness in spending of the Bratislava municipalities in areas close to Zelená hliadka.

Thursday, 27/03

Dušan Martinčok _ Susedia na dvore - Neighbours in the Yard, Bratislava

He has been living close to Žilinská street in the Old town borough of Bratislava since 2000. Dušan has always liked this place. At some point though, he began to see the coldness in relations between people, sharing the common space, as a problem.
Three years ago, he and some neighbours decided to break the ice and organise the "Party in the Yard". Ever since, their yard is lively, not only thanks to the, Party in the Yard twice a year, but also Cinema in the Yard, Bazzar in the Yard or Neighbour Bookclub. They have learnt to use the space of the yard and have slightly adjust it, as well. It is no paradise on earth, of course, many consider these activities pointless, and they haven't prevented neighbour conflicts neither. The conflicts are, however, easier to solve because people know each other better. It's about trust. Three years ago, no one used to dry their laundry in the yard. Now, you can see it almost every day.

Eva Malevič _ Ďakujem, sused - Thank you, Neighbour, Bratislava

Eva has graduated from the Faculty of Architecture at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. The main focus of her studies was re-urbanisation and transformation of city districts, and new forms and sustainability not only in architecture, but also in public space. She calls herself an "eternal optimist" and believes that even small selfless effort can make a difference. Eva is a proof of that herself. With her friend, Jana Hoosova, they have founded a project called "Thank you, neighbour" - small public bookshelves in the shape of birdhouses. Only one rule applies - take a book, return it after reading, or exchange it for another book. The book house is for everyone who likes reading and debating. For those interested in the world around them, for all good neighbours.

Sandra Štasselová _ Vnútroblok, Bratislava

Sandra has co-founded the Vnútroblok platform, implementing projects that improve the city - both its physical and social structures believing a good city is made up of good citizens. In 2014, Vnútroblok will focus on two projects: Diery (The Holes) and Mobilné záhrady (Mobile Gardens). The Holes project aims to map unused city spaces and find instant and temporary solutions and meanings for them, and utilize their potential. Mobile Gardens is the first model of the solution - they transform holes in the Bratislava city centre to neighbour gardens.

Dano Dida _ Bunka pre súčasnú kultúru - The Cell, Nitra

Dano is a graduate of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava (Department of Intermedia and Multimedia, studio IN of Ilona Németh) and he completed his Bachelor's degree at the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica (studio Intermedia, Miroslav Nicz). He is a co-founder of the BUNKA project (the Cell) for contemporary culture (along with Mária Trnovská, Martina Kalusová, Ľudmila Horňáková, and Juraj Gábor), which gradually fills the urban space in Nitra. Since 2013 he has been working in SPACE gallery in Bratislava.

Milan Zvada _ Záhrada - Garden, Banská Bystrica

Milan comes from Ružomberok. He studied pedagogics of the English language and Philosophy. He worked in Liptovský Mikuláš theatre where he focused on dramaturgy. At the moment, he is a project manager and dramaturge in the Záhrada cultural centre in Banská Bystrica. He is grateful for being a volunteer, travelling a lot, as well as planning and living without a mortgage.

Ivan Siláči _ YOUNG FOLKS LC, Lučenec

Ivan currently studies architecture at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. In 2011, he started the YOUNG FOLKS LC initiative in his hometown Lučenec, which tackles the issues of public space. Ivan perceives public space as a natural part of personal space of each of us, which is what makes his projects for Lučenec citizens a little different. YOUNG FOLKS joins the international Park(ing) Day initiative, during which the parking places in Lučenec are transformed into galleries, dance floors or artistic studios. The initiative succeded in renaming the park in front of the local high school to the Park of B. S. Timrava and it has been working on its renovation. Ivan has managed to start an active dialogue with the Lučenec municipality.

Rudolf Kozlai _ Urbanika, Prešov

Rudolf studied architecture at the Faculty of Architecture in Prague and in Graz, Austria. He has gathered practical experience in the field of architecture in Graz, Lisabon, Prague, Soul, and Prešov, where he currently works for the architectonic studio S-project. In 2012, together with Ladislav Šandor, Silvia Potkányová, Matej Ochotnický, and Františej Karlík, he founded Urbanika. Urbanika deals with architecture, art, culture and their impact on public spaces. Nowadays, the most important project of Urbanika is the Urban Oasis, its aim is not only to cultivate of public space, but also to form a healthy community around it.

Mišo Hudák _ Východné pobrežie - East Coast, Košice

Mišo is the Minister of Demagogics in a conceptual country called East coast (Východné pobrežie). East coast is a dream. A dream of a country where people will be able to live without constantly twisting the absurd reality in order to feel a little alive. Of a country where it's always 32°C, clear sky and middle waves.